

Brilliant Wanderers hit Shields for seven

NORTH SHIELDS came down to Loakes Park on Saturday as strong opponents for Wycombe Wanderers in a pre-season friendly. But by 4.45 p.m. they had been completely run off their feet and suffered a 7-0 annihilation.

The Wanderers' forward line ran riot in the second half, scoring five times, having another disallowed and also missing a penalty. Tony Horseman, who notched a hat-trick, Keith Searle and Tony Brothers combined perfectly as the visitors' defence fell apart.

However, as early as the second minute, Wanderers had a narrow escape. A deep cross from right winger John Rutherford found Dennis Burdis lurking unmarked in the box, but the striker's header rebounded off a post.

After this, Wycombe never looked back. They gained control in midfield, where Micky Holifield and Rob Williams were outstanding, and they incessantly probed the North Shields defence.

New centre back Peter Anderson had one shot blocked and then another saved by goalkeeper Malcolm Harper after a Mick Holifield corner. Then in the 10th minute another accurate corner by Holifield enabled Keith Searle to rise unchallenged and head home Wanderers' first goal.

Following this Horseman, Steve Perrin, Ian Rundle and Brothers were all unlucky not to score. North Shields tried bravely to soak up the pressure but eventually their defence was pierced again by one of the best moves of the game.

Mick Holifield passed to defender Roger Grant who raced down the wing, beat one player and then split the visitors' defence by crossing to 'Bodger' Horseman who had plenty of time to head home.

At this stage, North Shields were already out of the game. They lacked the aggression, flair and enthusiasm which seemed to be pouring out of Wanderers.

Shortly after the interval, Wanderers found themselves 5-0 up. Steve Perrin started the goal rush in the 46th minute. He received the ball 25 yards from goal and then paused, found a space and crashed home a glorious shot.

Rob Williams added to this with a delicate lob which deceived the visitors' 'keeper and dropped into the net. Then it was Bodger's turn to score one of his typical goals from a free-kick movement. Just outside the box, the ball was touched sideways to him and he sent a perfect bending shot into the top corner of the goal.

During the half both sides brought on substitutes. Wanderers used Derek Gamblin at half time in place of Roger Grant. Two local youngsters, Dave Woodbridge and Graham Mackenzie also came on and both made an impact.

A perfect through-ball by Keith Searle gave Bodger the chance to claim his hat-trick, but he shot over. However, great work by Woodbridge a few minutes later created another opening for Bodger and this time he did not miss.

Woodbridge received the ball and immediately shook off one tackle. He ran to the goal-line and then crossed to Bodger, who tucked the ball into the net.

Keith Searle had a great 'goal' disallowed when another player was ruled offside, and shortly afterwards he had a tamely-taken spot-kick saved after Bodger had been pulled down.

Graham Mackenzie concluded the scoring. He received a pass from Brothers in the penalty area and, from an awkward angle, hit a low drive past the Shields' 'keeper.

The Wanderers' defence was ruled offside, and shortly the game but there were still signs that the partnership of Bullock and Anderson could be a vital asset to the side during the season. John Maskell was out with a dislocated finger and was replaced at short notice by Peter Spittle. Also missing from the side was Larry Pritchard, who was representing the League.

Wycombe: P. Spittle, I. Rundle, R. Grant (sub. D. Gamblin 45 mins.), P. Anderson, D. Bullock (sub. G. Mackenzie 78 mins.), R. Williams, T. Horseman, M. Holifield (sub. D. Woodbridge 69 mins.), K. Searle, T. Brothers, S. Perrin (sub. B. Bremer 54 mins.).

North Shields: M. Harper, A. Driver, W. Heron, A. Rosenthorn, J. Graham, R. Tatam, G. Brown, A. Young (sub. W. Haynes 55 mins.), D. Rutherford, D. Burdis (sub. T. Thornton 60 mins.).

Referee: W. G. Cleere.

Half-time: 2-0. **Scorers:** Wycombe — Horseman 3 (33, 56, 77), Searle (10), Perrin (46), Williams (48), Mackenzie (88).

Attendance: 850.